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appealing to transcendental views. Although some American glacialists will here dissent, yet the treatment of the evidence is very fair, and from the facts collected the book cannot be overlooked by any scientific observer.

The work closes with suggestions to explain some difficulties carefully analyzed, wherein the author appeals to "waves of translation," a modification of the old doctrine of catastrophies (as does also Prof. Prestwich in some of his recent contributions). It is surprising that the idea of cataclysms in some form, whether glacial or otherwise, has permeated the views of so many writers, often without their apparent knowledge, who are considered good disciples of uniformitarianism.

In spite of the title, the work is just such a volume of condensation of observations, gathered from the whole world, as is needed for a manual of references, for these are much more prominent than the views of the author, even in the latter part of the book. It, however, shows that there may be two views of great problems. From the work, one is almost surprised to find how much the early geologists in America had done in surface geology, which has been almost forgotten, yet this formed the foundation of even the modern science of superficial geology.

—J. W. S.

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## General Notes.

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### MINERALOGY.<sup>1</sup>

**Universal Stage for the Microscope.**—Federow has done a great service to mineralogists and petrographers by introducing instruments based on the universal or theodolite principles. His application of these principles to the measurement of crystal angles is the goniometer with two graduated circles, which has already been referred to in these notes. Extending his study to the field of crystallographic-optical measurements, he has devised the universal microscope stage,<sup>2</sup> which increases the usefulness of the microscope by permitting a quite new class of observations to be made. The microscope stage now in use permits of only such motions as always retain the slide in a plane parallel to the initial one. Federow's universal stage allows the slide to be moved into any position whatsoever by two rotations about axes normal alike to one another and to the microscopé's axis. He has described and figured two different types of stage, one better adapted to ordinary work and also permitting the slide to be immersed in liquids if desired, while the other has the advantage of greater simplicity and has a convenient arrangement for orienting the slide in its own plane, so that any line (e. g., a twinning trace) may be brought parallel to the immovable axis of the stage. In answer to some inquiries,

<sup>1</sup>Edited by Dr. Wm. H. Hobbs, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

<sup>2</sup>Zeitsch. f. Kryst., xxii, pp. 229-268, pl. 9 (1893).